

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ORM-01 DHA-02

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAM-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00

PM-03 L-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 /068 W

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O 091440Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3718

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4532

E.O. 11652(GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REFUGEES: NEW PORTUGUESE PLAN, REQUEST FOR U.S.
ASSISTANCE

REF: A) LUANDA 1077 B) STATE 188417

1. ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO RAISED QUESTION OF BOEING 747 DURING
MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR THURSDAY, AUG. 7. ECON COUNSELOR CALLED
ON MEMBERS OF TAP ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD AUGUST 8 TO ASCERTAIN
FACTS OF CASE. LATTER REPORTED THAT AIRPLANE HAS BEEN
COMPLETED SINCE APRIL, BUT DELIVERY DELAYED PENDING
RESOLUTION OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. TWO FACTORS DELAYING
FINANCING. FIRST, GOP OBJECTED TO SEVERAL PROVISIONS OF
DRAFT LOAN CONTRACT. IN LATE JULY TAP LAWYER VISITED MORGAN
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GUARANTY OF NEW YORK, WHICH IS LEADING FINANCIAL CONSORTIUM

FOR DOLLARS 44 MILLION LOAN, TO PRESENT GOP OBJECTIONS. MORGAN PROMISED RELATE GOP OBJECTIONS TO CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AND TO PROVIDE RESPONSE BY WEEK OF AUGUST 11-16. SECOND, DURING TAP NATIONALIZATION PROCESS, COMPANY'S LEGAL STATUS BECAME QUESTIONABLE. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS MUST ISSUE CLARIFYING DECREE BEFORE TAP CAN SIGN FINANCING CONTRACT. DECREE IS REPORTEDLY PREPARED, BUT POLITICAL CONFUSION HAS PREVENTED PUBLICATION.

2. TAP OFFICIALS REPORTED GOP HAS DECIDED NOT TO DISRUPT COMPANY'S NORMAL SCHEDULES EXCESSIVELY BECAUSE RESULTING DISLOCATIONS WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS. THUS TAP PREPARED PROVIDE SPECIAL FLIGHTS, I.E. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL COMMERCIAL FREQUENCIES, CAPABLE OF CARRYING ONLY FORTY THOUSAND PASSENGERS PER MONTH. IT ALSO CONTRACTED FOREIGN CARRIER CHARTERS TO LIFT FIFTEEN THOUSAND PASSENGERS PER MONTH. TOTAL FOR THREE MONTHS WOULD THUS BE 165 THOUSAND, OR WELL BELOW ANNOUNCED TARGET. TAP CLAIMS TO HAVE SPOKEN WITH SEVERAL OTHER FOREIGN CARRIERS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL CHARTERS.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES USG SHOULD PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA EVACUATION PROGRAM. ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED, HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL GOP REQUEST, PERHAPS A REQUEST PROMPTED BY AN INITIAL USG INDICATION THAT IT PREPARED TO HELP. IF REQUEST IS FORTHCOMING, EMBASSY FEELS USG SHOULD OFFER LIST CAPACITY ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, FOOD SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE IN ASSURING AVAILABILITY NECESSARY JET FUEL. BULK OF US FOOD ASSISTANCE SHOULD PREFERABLY BE PROVIDED TO REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION USG PERSONNEL. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GOP TO INSURE SUFFICIENT LIFT CAPACITY, PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ONLY REFUGEES, AND GIVE US ASSISTANCE HIGH VISIBILITY.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONTACT MORGAN GUARANTY TO ENCOURAGE RAPID RESPONSE TO TAP ON FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR BOEING AIRCRAFT. AUGUST 9 PRESS REPORTS REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL APPROVED NEW TAP STATUTES. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES, THEREFORE, PROMPT
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PUBLICATION OF MINISTERIAL DECREE CLARIFYING TAP STATUS.
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Message Attributes

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